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A considerable portion of the work done by the shipyards is repair of salvaged former German merchantmen, including the "Cordilleren," "Hamburg," "Albert Ballin," "Oceana," and "Iberia." The second item in the shipyard projects is new vessels for the naval units of the People's Police and the Border Police. These units, in addition to Soviet vessels and vessels of the former German Navy, are also using new types of vessels. At present the units possess 8 minesweepers, 3 reconnaissance vessels, 17 high-speed patrol boats, 28 coast guard vessels (including a large number of wartime fishing cutters), and an old-type antiaircraft cruiser. The vessels ordered in 1953 are also mainly destined for the People's Police. They include 2 destroyers developed from the Narvik class, 6 torpedo boats, 5 minesweepers, 38 high-speed patrol boats, [6 coast-guard vessels*], and 27 [armed*] coast-guard vessels with displacements of up to 400 tons.

The fishing fleet is to be brought up to 1,590 vessels with 212,000 tons by next year. Up to now there are about 300 fishing vessels registered in the GDR. It is assumed that most of the new fishing vessels to be built will be of the ocean-going type. The lack of marine internal-combustion engines will necessitate the use of steam engines for a large number of ships.

*[This information was taken from Der Schiffbau in der sowjetischen Besatzungszone.]

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